DO YOU ENJOY MATH AND SCIENCE BUT DON’T WANT TO BE A DOCTOR?

The role of the pharmacist is increasingly becoming an integrated part of the healthcare system involved in patient care. Counting pills and filling prescriptions is only a small part of a pharmacist’s job. Customers and health care providers also rely on pharmacists to on the proper selection and dosage of medications, interactions, and side effects of medications. The salary alone is enough to capture the interest of people choosing a career but is it the right choice for you? The road to becoming a pharmacist is a six year process requiring excellent aptitude for math, science, and chemistry. The outlook for careers as a pharmacist should continue to be very good due to strong growth in the usage of prescription drugs coupled with an aging population.

The number of pharmacists in the region will increase to more than 6,500 by the year 2020!

Demand for pharmacists due to career advancement and retirement is nearly as critical as demand due to growth.

Annual Job Openings – Gulf Coast Region

Openings Due to Replacement, 130

Openings Due to Growth, 145
Pharmacists earn excellent wages, averaging more than $100,000 per year!

Average Annual Wages – Gulf Coast Region

- Pharmacists: $109,239
- All Occupations: $47,255

More than half of all pharmacists work at retail establishments. Where do the rest work?

Pharmacists – Gulf Coast Region 2020

- Health & Personal Care Stores – 40.2%
- Grocery Stores – 12.7%
- Health & Personal Care Stores – 12.7%
- Government – 2.0%
- Offices of Physicians – 1.5%
- Other – 19.4%
- Hospitals – 24.2%
PATHWAY TO BECOMING A PHARMACIST

Pharmacists are regulated and licensed by the state in a way similar to that of registered nurses and doctors. So, how does a person become a licensed pharmacist in Texas?

- Graduate from a college of pharmacy.
- Complete an internship of 1,500 hours
- Pass a licensure examination given by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy, which includes subjects in chemistry, mathematics, pharmacy, pharmacology, practice of pharmacy, and pharmacy law

In addition, a pharmacist must complete 30 hours of pharmacy continuing education courses every two years.

Additional state licensing information can be found at the Texas State Board of Pharmacy website: http://www.tsbp.state.tx.us/

START EARLY AND BE PREPARED!

Pharmacy programs are very competitive and many students are turned away each year. Students should strive for the highest GPA possible to provide them with the edge needed for acceptance into a pharmacy program.

Pharmacy programs require strong skills in science, chemistry, and math. Knowledge of a foreign language enhances your chances of getting accepted into pharmacy school.

GULF COAST REGION PHARMACY PROGRAMS

Universities

- Texas Southern University
- University of Houston

WHERE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT IN THE GULF COAST REGION

- All Retail Pharmacies
- All acute care hospitals
- Pharmaceutical developers and/or distributors such as Cardinal Pharmaceuticals or McKesson Corporation
## Preparing for a Pharmacist Career*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Suggested Coursework</th>
<th>Career-Related Electives</th>
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<td>9th Grade</td>
<td>English I</td>
<td>World Geography</td>
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<td>Algebra I</td>
<td>Languages other than English I</td>
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<td>10th Grade</td>
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<td>Geometry</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Algebra II</td>
<td>Professional Communications</td>
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<td>Physics</td>
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<td>12th Grade</td>
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<td>AP Statistics</td>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advanced Biotechnology</td>
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*Source: AchieveTexas.org